

From: eric@schatz.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:07pm
Subject: In Opposition to the Proposed Microsoft Settlement

I do not believe that the proposed Microsoft Anti-trust settlement as it is written is in the public's best interest. Considering Microsoft's history of anti-competitive behavior, I do not feel that the settlement is harsh enough or will effectively curb the wreckless power that Microsoft wields.

I would like to see competition in the Operating System market. As a consumer, I want to be able to choose an operating system based on such factors as price, security, ease of use, and stability. Currently, the only factor I have in choosing my operating system is the applications that will run on it. As the majority of commercial software is developed for Microsoft Windows operating systems, it is clear that Microsoft API's have become an industry standard. As a standard, Microsoft must publicly release documentation for all its API's so that Windows compatible operating systems may be created. Otherwise, competition in the operating system market will never exist. Microsoft must also be prohibited from using restrictive licensing terms and intentional incompatibilities, as it done in the past for would-be competitors. Though the issue of a competitive operating system market should have been a key part of any Anti-trust case against Microsoft, the proposed settlement does not address it at all.

In addition, I feel the proposed settlement lacks a means to enforce itself.

Sincerely,
Eric M. Schatz